(a) whether it is a fact that huge quantity of High Speed Diesel (HSD) is being smuggled into the country from Gulf and is being sold of petrol pumps after adulterating it with kerosene oil:

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the quantum of HSD that has been smuggled into the country during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence generates general intellignece regarding the smuggling of HSD into the country. Based on specific information received, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence seized 770 kiloliters of HSD valued at Rs. 2.42 crores which was loaded on vessel "Al Shahaba" at Muscat and was declared to discharge the same at Port Masirah. The vassel entered Indian Customs waters illegally and was intercepted by officials of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence on 21.12.2004. when the HSD was being illegally discharged into barges. Six persons were arrested in this case.

(c) The quantum of smuggled HSD seized during the last two years is as under:—

Year	Quantum (in kilolitres)
2003-2004	35.2
2004-2005	1718.5

Asian Gas Grid

3497. SHRI R.P. GOENKA:
SHRI ANAND SHARMA:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to set up an Asian Gas Grid;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal and the names of countries that will constitute the proposed grid; and

(c) in what manner if would help Indian in meeting its petroleum requirements?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) While, there is no formal proposal to set up a Asian Gas Grid, proposals to import gas from Iran through Iran -Pakistan-India pipeline and from Myanmar through Myanmar-Bangladesh-India pipeline are under consideration of the Government. The possibility of India's participation in the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan gas pipeline project is also examination.

The concept of Asian Gas Grid was broached by the Minister (P&NG) at the Third Asian Gas Buyers' Summit held in New Delhi on Februrary 14-15, 2005, thereby throwing open the thought for public discussion.

A Gas Grid, connecting India with gas producing countries, would facilitate gas importas by us, thereby improving out energy security.

Change in Oil Exploration Licensing Policy

†3498. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to bring changes in oil exploration licensing policy:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are considering to introduce single window facility for the convenience of the investors;

(d) whether Government have received any complaints from the investors; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The Government of India approved the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) in 1997 and it become effective in 1999, since when licenses for exploration are being awarded through an

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.